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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DLOS-09 DHA-02 ACDA-07 SAB-02 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AID-05
IGA-02 /110 W
----------035275 021347Z /50
R 012100Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8606
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 7600

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EINV, ENRG, SHUM, PARM, PBOR, PE, BL, CI, PN, VE
SUBJECT: BANZER VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REF: LA PAZ 5924, CARACAS 7532 (NOTAL), CARACAS 7344 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: VISIT OF PRESIDENT BANZER TO VENEZUELA
JULY 27-29 PROVIDED PRESIDENT PEREZ OPPORTUNITY TO
EMPHASIZE HIS BOLIVIAN FOREIGN POLICY ASPIRATIONS WITH
LESS ECONOMICALLY FORTUNATE HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBOR. MOST
IMPORTANT THEME WAS BOLIVIA'S SEA ACCESS PROBLEM
IN WHICH PEREZ SAID VENEZUELA HAS GREAT INTEREST. PEREZ
OBTAINED BANZER'S APPROVAL FOR LANGUAGE IN FINAL JOINT
DECLARATION TO EFFECT THAT MEANS OF SETTLING THIS OUT-
STANDING ISSUE MUST BE THROUGH CREATION OF A CENTER OF
DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH PACIFIC REGION WHICH WOULD REDUCE
TENSIONS AND EVENTUALLY PROVIDE FOR BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO
SEA. THIS CONCEPT IS KEY ELEMENT IN VENEZUELAN THINKING
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ABOUT SEA ACCESS ISSUE AND WE CAN EXPECT FURTHER VENEZUELAN
FOLLOW-UP ON THIS ISSUE IN NEAR TERM. VISIT ALSO ALLOWED
PEREZ TO HEAP PRAISE ON BANZER FOR LATTER'S COMMITMENT
TO RETURN TO DEMOCRACY BY 1980, AS WELL AS BOTH COUNTRIES'
SUPPORT FOR SOLUTION OF PANAMA CANAL ISSUE, HUMAN RIGHTS,
NON-PROLIFERATION, REGIONAL INTEGRATION, NIEO, ET AL.
PEREZ ALSO SHOWED VENEZUELAN LARGESS THROUGH LINE OF

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FINANCIAL CREDIT, A FREE SHIP, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
AND AIR AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SEA ACCESS ISSUE: JOINT DECLARATION OF JULY 29
STATED THAT ".....THE TWO PRESIDENTS STRESS THE FULL
RECOGNITION OF THE JUSTICE OF THE BOLIVIAN CAUSE TO
RETURN TO THE SEA AS EXPRESSED BY THE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM, AS WELL AS BY THE OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. IN ORDER TO FOSTER THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE AND REALISTIC SOLUTION OVER
A PERIOD OF TIME WHICH WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
CONTINENTAL EXPECTATIONS AND WITH BOLIVIA'S URGENT NEED
TO OBTAIN AN OUTLET TO THE SEA, BEARING IN MIND THAT
THIS FALLS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLES FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND STRENGTHENING
LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY AND INTEGRATION, THE TWO
CHIEFS OF STATE AGREE ON THE NEED TO RAISE AGAIN THE
MATTER OF GRANTING BOLIVIA A DIRECT AND SOVEREIGN SEA
OUTLET, WITH THE CREATION OF A LARGE CENTER
FOR THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC ZONE, TO WHICH
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS COULD OFFER
THEIR COOPERATION, AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES." IN
REMARKS AT STATE DINNER JULY 28, PRESIDENT PEREZ STATED
THAT WHILE SEA ACCESS PROBLEM IS FOR COUNTRIES DIRECTLY
INVOLVED TO RESOLVE, VENEZUELA BY SIGNING AYACUCHO
DECLARATION IN 1974 ASSUMED A RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT
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AND PAY ATTENTION TO BOLIVIA'S SEA ACCESS PROBLEM. HE
THEN READ LONG QUOTES FROM AYACUCHO DECLARATION TO MAKE
HIS POINT, AND ADDED, IN CLOSING REMARKS ON THIS ISSUE,
"I ONLY OFFER THE GOOD OFFICES OF MY COUNTRY....." AND
"WHY NOT THINK ABOUT THE COAST OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC AS
A GREAT AREA OF DEVELOPMENT....." ".....AN AREA WHICH
PERHAPS COULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOLIVIA TO
HAVE ITS OWN SOVEREIGN OUTLET TO THE SEA."

2. DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: DECLARATION ALSO
REITERATED BOTH COUNTRIES' COMMITMENT TO THEIR FAITH IN
"POLITICAL AND ETHICAL VALUE OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCITY
WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS AN INDISPENSABLE GUIDE TO GUARANTEE
THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBERTY AND FULL AUTONOMY" FOR THEIR
PEOPLES. BOTH PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE
TO RECONCILE DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT AND THUS IT IS
NOT PERMISSABLE, THROUGH THE PRETEXT OF ALLEGED PROGRESS,
TO HARM THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON. THUS, BOTH
LEADERS GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS ON THEIR BACKING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

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IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 28, PRESIDENT BANZER SAID THAT
POLITICAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS ARE PROTECTED, BUT THAT
THOSE THAT VIOLATE THE LAW WILL BE IMPRISONED. BOLIVIAN
EXILE MARIO PADILLA, DURING THE CONFERENCE, ASKED BANZER
FOR GUARANTEES AND WAS INVITED BY
BANZER TO RETURN WITH HIM ON HIS PLANE. QUESTIONED
DURING THE CONFERENCE ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY, BANZER SAID THAT HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVE
NOT ONLY PERSONAL RIGHTS, BUT ALSO ECONOMIC RIGHTS,
SUCH AS THE FAILURE TO PAY "JUST PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS."

3. PANAMA: BOTH PRESIDENTS NOTED IN DECLARATION AND
IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS THEIR NATIONS' ABSOLUTE SOLIDARITY
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WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA AND FOR THE PROMPT CON-
CLUSION OF A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY WHICH WILL FULLY
RESTORE PANAMA'S SOVEREIGNTY. THE DECLARATION, AFTER
TAKING NOTE OF PANAMA'S AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE BOLIVIA WITH
SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION TO THE USE OF A SPECIFIC AREA OF
THE FREE ZONE OF COLON FOR ITS MARITIME COMMERCE, THEN
NOTED THAT PEREZ HAD DECIDED TO MAKE A GIFT OF A SHIP
TO BOLIVIA FOR ITS MERCHANT MARINE FLEET. SPEAKING TO
THIS POINT AT STATE DINNER, PEREZ NOTED THAT THE SHIP
WAS A SYMBOL OF BOLIVIAN MARITIME ASPIRATIONS.

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USIA-06 IO-13 DLOS-09 DHA-02 SAB-02 EB-08 COME-00
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AID-05
IGA-02 /110 W
----------042501 021345Z /50
R 012100Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8607
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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4. TERRORISM, NON-PROLIFERATION, ARMS CONTROLS, COLONIALIS: JOINT DECLARATION ALSO CONTAINED RIECT REFERENCES TO TERRORISM (TO BE DEPLORES), CALLED FOR ALL CONTINENTAL AND EXTRACONTINENTAL STATES TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR ARMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ITS PROTOCOLS I AND II, RECALLED THE COMMITMENT THE AYACUCHO SIGNATORIES UNDERTOOK IN 1974 ABOUT THE URGENT NEED TO CONTINUE MEETINGS OF EXPERTS ON THE ARMS LIMITATIONS IN THE ANDEAN REGION, AND CONDEMNED THE CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF COLONIALISM IN THE HEMISPHERE WHILE EXPRESSING THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH "THE EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM."

5. REGIONAL INTEGRATION: DECLARATION LANGUAGE SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO "CONTINUOUS DELAYS WITHIN THE ANDEAN PACT WHICH IMPEDE THE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PRO-GRAMMING" AND BOTH LEADERS ALSO AGREED TO SUPPORT COM-
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PLETION OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIAL SECTORIAL PROGRAM IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. IT ALSO MENTIONED LAFTA AND SELA AS IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROCESS. FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT BANZER VISITED SELA HEADQUARTERS HERE TO UNDERLINE GOB'S COMMITMENT TO THIS NEW ORGANIZATION.

6. BILATERAL TIES: JOINT DECLARATION ALSO MENTIONS A LINE OF CREDIT TO BOLIVIA (SUM WAS NOT DISCLOSED), AS WELL AS VARIOUS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PETROCHEMICALS, HYDROCARBONS, AND IRON AND STEEL DEVELOPMENT, CITED SIGNING OF AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS, AND FURTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTORS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT: AS IN THE CASE OF THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT VIDELA OF ARGENTINA IN MAY, PRESIDENT PEREZ CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM THE VENEZUELAN LEFT FOR TREATING WITH A MILITARY DICTATOR. PEREZ CHOOSE TO IGNORE THIS CRITICISM, TO WHICH HE MADE NOT A SINGLE ALLUSION. RATHER, PEREZ PLAYED UP VENEZUELA'S DEMOCRATIC VOCATION WHICH COULD SHOW THE WAY FOR OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES AS THEY MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY. MAJOR FEATHER IN PEREZ' CAP WAS BANZER'S AGREEMENT TO A GENERALFORMULA FOR A LARGE ECONOMIC

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION INVOLV-
ING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. PEREZ DISCUSSED THIS IDEA
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS STATE VISIT IN JUNE,
AND HAS INFORMED US THAT HE WOULD HAVE FURTHER IDEAS
ABOUT FOLLOW-UP AFTER BANZER'S VISIT. ALTHOUGH HIS
REMARKS AT THE STATE DINNER ON THIS POINT WERE VAGUELY
DEFENSIVE, VENEZUELA'S LACK OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE
CHILEAN-PERUVIAN-BOLIVIAN ACCESS PROBLEM WILL CERTAINLY
NOT DETER PRESIDENT PEREZ FROM OFFERING HIS VIEWS TO
THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND TO OTHERS ONCE HE HAS TIME
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TO FORMULATE THEM. LANGUAGE ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND
ARMS REDUCTION TALKS WAS CLEARLY DIRECTED TO BOLIVIA'S
IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS AND FITS IN CLOSELY AS WELL WITH
PEREZ' CONCERN ABOUT ARMS PURCHASES BURDENING VARIOUS
ECONOMIES OF THE REGION.

8. FINALLY, WE WOULD NOTE THAT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
IS NOT ONE TO OVERLOOK GIFTS MADE BY OTHERS TO HIS
POTENTIAL HOSTS. CLEARLY, VENEZUELA'S DECISION TO PROVIDE
A SHIP TO BANZER WAS TRIGGERED BY PANAMA'S GIFT OF FREE
TERRITORY AT COLON, AND CAUSED SOMETHING OF A STIR IN
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH HAD TO REARRANGE THE SCHEDULE
AT THE LAST MINUTE TO ACCOMMODATE THE SIGNING
CEREMONY ON THE SHIP.

9. EMBASSY POUCHING TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO EMBASSY
LA PAZ AND ARA/AND.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANZER VISIT TO VENEZUELA
TAGS: PFOR, EINV, ENRG, SHUM, PARM, PBOR, OVIP, PE, BL, CI, PN, VE, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)
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